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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claim 4 has been amended to overcome the §112 rejection.

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 6,535,962 (Mayfield). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection, as Mayfield nowhere teaches, at least, that a determination of whether data that is stored in a buffer unit corresponds to an address value is based, at least in part, on detection of an overflow signal. As such, claim 1 and the claims depending therefrom are patentable over Mayfield. For at least the same reason, certain dependent claims standing rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Mayfield in view of secondary references are also patentable.

As to independent claim 9, Mayfield nowhere teaches that the recited plurality of buffers are present within a cache memory, where the cache memory also stores the data for which copies are in the buffers. Instead, in Mayfield a multi-level cache architecture is disclosed in which the Office Action contends that different ones of the cache memory levels (e.g., L1 and L2) meet the recited cache memory and plural buffers. Nothing in Mayfield, however, teaches that a cache memory that stores data also includes multiple buffers to store copies of the data.

New claims 34-45 are patentable, as the cited art nowhere teaches or suggests that copies of data stored within multiple buffers are to be invalidated if a write operation is to occur to a memory location corresponding to any of the buffers. For at least this reason, independent claim 34 and the claims depending therefrom are patentable.

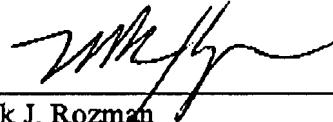
As to new independent claim 40, the cited art nowhere teaches or suggests the recited control unit in which overflow logic is to indicate if a buffer includes valid data based at least in part on an overflow signal from an adder. For at least this reason claim 40 and the claim depending therefrom are patentable.

In view of these remarks, the application is now in condition for allowance and the Examiner's prompt action in accordance therewith is respectfully requested. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 20-1504.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: _____

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